



LexLinc

Annual Report

2004 - 2005



A Word from the Board of Commissioners:

LexLinc was founded in 1998 as a visionary partnership among local citizens, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, and the Department for Social Services of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. These partners sought ways to make government and community work better together by organizing broadly supported yet targeted responses to local issues.

Today, all our successes occur through our community partners. This report, which highlights select accomplishments during the past year, is dedicated to the many organizations and individuals that strive to serve families and children by working through unified efforts in our community.

★ Families Economically Empowered ★

Central Kentucky Economic Empowerment Project (CKEEP). Eleven tax sites prepared 1,000 tax returns for free which totaled more than \$900,000 in refunds. Included in this total is almost \$500,000 in the federal Earned Income Tax Credit. During CKEEP's second year, volunteers increased their productivity by 120 percent. In addition to free tax preparation, CKEEP hosted *Grow Your Wealth Financial Summit*, during which Kentucky State Treasurer Jonathan Miller addressed participants about saving for the future.



LexLinc Community Development Federal Credit Union. With over 1,200 members after only two years, the credit union merged with Members Heritage Credit Union, which will serve members with a wider variety of services from three locations.

★ Young Children Ready to Enter School ★



Partnership with United Way Success by Six® Initiative. Success by Six® focused efforts in literacy, improving parent support, and increasing quality in childcare centers. Since the launch of a literacy initiative in August, Success by Six® has enrolled over 1,600 children in the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which provides a free book a month from birth through the fifth birthday. During the Imagination Library kick-off, Success by Six® and LexLinc sponsored Stories Under the Stars at Gratz Park and Celebrities Read at the mall.

Extended Hands, which focuses on bridging gaps in service delivery for children in the early years, served 20 families this year. Due to the success, the Knight Foundation awarded Success by Six® \$442,950 over three years to continue Extended Hands.



Success by Six® also strengthened forty targeted childcare centers by providing Imagination Library books, science kits and health literature.

★ Strong, Thriving Neighborhoods ★



Citizen's Leadership Academy. With LexLinc as a primary partner, the Citizen's Leadership Academy graduated two classes totaling 28 people from a 12-week program. LexLinc sponsored \$8,000 in administrative support and mini-grants for graduates to develop and lead community projects.

Community Involvement Team. Not only did this team help construct a playground, but it also focused efforts in fatherhood and education. Along with the Gainesway Empowerment Center, Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government Division of Parks and Recreation, United Way Success by Six®, UK Children's Hospital Injury Free Coalition for Kids, and Allstate Foundation, LexLinc helped build a \$100,000 state-of-the-art playground in the Gainesway area. For two years, LexLinc, neighborhood partners, and United Way Success by Six® advocated for the playground.



Photo provided by Photography and Motion Picture by Shawn

As part of an evolving focus on fatherhood, LexLinc neighborhood partners held the first annual Father's Day Celebration in Douglass Park to stimulate awareness and partnerships about the positive impact fathers can have in their children's lives. Over 300 fathers and their families attended the event.

To forge more productive relationships between Fayette County Public Schools and targeted neighborhoods, the Community Involvement Team hosted three neighborhood forums to introduce the superintendent to the communities and their concerns.

★ Adults Working ★

BEST Initiative. In partnership with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, LexLinc helps organize and monitor local welfare reform initiatives on an on-going basis. Participating agencies met or exceeded community benchmarks including:

- ◆ Placing 136 people into jobs
- ◆ Helping 62 people keep their jobs for at least 90 days
- ◆ Screening and assisting 319 people for personal barriers to work
- ◆ Maintaining 14 HUD self-sufficiency accounts

To provide networking and training for people working directly with the clients, LexLinc continued to host monthly meetings of the Welfare Operations Committee.

★ Children Safe and Healthy in their Families; Families Safe and Healthy in the Community ★

Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative. CKHHI organized the HUD Continuum of Care process, conducted a city-wide homeless count, activated a multi-agency Homeless Management Information System, and initiated a ten-year plan to end chronic homelessness.



Friends of Children. The Family Safety Task Force and the Community Collaboration for Children combined forces three years ago to improve the safety of children. This year, the group changed its name to Friends of Children. They organized Prevent Child Abuse Month activities in April, which included a candlelight vigil to memorialize children whose lives ended due to abuse and neglect; a resource fair for families and children; and an awards breakfast attended by over 200 individuals who strive to protect and improve the lives of children in our community.



Foster Care and Adoption. LexLinc continued supporting the Department for Community Based Services to recruit foster and adoptive parents. LexLinc helped organize and secured sponsors for Santa's Brunch for 175 people, including foster children and their families. With the help of Barnes and Noble, LexLinc arranged a book drive during November and December for 100 children in the Special Needs Adoption Program. In June, the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services and the Foster Care Review Board celebrated Adoption Day, during which family court judges finalized ten adoptions.



Photo provided by Rickerson Photography



Training Consortium. This year, training initiatives focused on Mexican and workplace culture. In order to train service providers to better assist immigrants, a third class of twenty individuals, including UK interns, participated in the Ultimate Home Visit immersion project in Morelia, Mexico. The Training Consortium helped develop this successful project and transferred its administration to UK and affiliates.

As a professional development program, the training consortium helped organize and pilot a six-week "high performance workplace" training for over 170 employees in the Department of Social Services of Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government.



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